

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Webb '135 in view of Ouchi '096. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Representative Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command. The method includes the steps of detecting that the document has been set to the reader, displaying, on the external device, a virtual control panel in response to this detection, and generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation of the virtual control panel. In addition, the generated command is supplied to the remotely controllable apparatus.

The remaining independent claims, i.e., Claims 4, 13, 17, 20 and 23, also include the features of detecting that the document has been set to a reader and, in response thereto, a virtual control panel is provided on an external device or a display unit. In Claim 24, a control method includes the steps of receiving a signal indicating that the document has been set to an image reading device, and displaying a control panel in response to the signal.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, an apparatus can be easily and efficiently controlled.

The primary citation to Webb relates to a host computer in communication with one or more printers. As shown in Figure 1, the host computer 11 and printer 16 are

connected to each other, with an operator panel 35 provided on the printer, and a replica of the panel provided at the host 11 at dialogue box 63. The Office Action asserts, on page 12, that Webb detects that a document has been set to a selected printer (paper jam) and displays a virtual control panel based on this detection.

The secondary citation to Ouchi relates to an image input/output system and was cited for providing a personal computer and a multifunction peripheral apparatus. The multifunction peripheral apparatus includes a detector for detecting various errors, such as print sheet jam, print ink shortage, etc., and a scanner device 5 and a printer device 6.

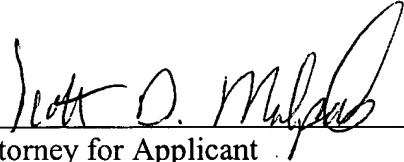
It is respectfully submitted, however, that the proposed combination of art, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, detecting that a document has been set to a reader and, in response to this detection, providing a virtual control panel (or a control panel as in Claim 24). Neither Webb nor Ouchi detects that a document has been set in the reader. It is respectfully submitted that detecting paper jamming as in the prior art is patentably distinguishable from detecting that a document has been set to a reader and then displaying a control panel in response, and thus does not meet the language of Applicant's claimed invention.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 is submitted to be patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 5-12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
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Respectfully submitted,



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